

BUFFALO LAKE Management Team

PARLBY CREEK - BUFFALO LAKE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

• NEWSLETTER • AUGUST • 1998 •

Message From the Chairman

Greetings from the Buffalo Lake Management Team for 1998. At long last both pumps are running and water is moving from the Red Deer River down Parlby Creek and into Buffalo Lake. Unfortunately we did lose about a month of pumping potential due to legalities in the land assembly process.

Our marina retrofit at Rochon Sands, and campground and marina work at Pelican Point are now complete. Both projects look great thanks to the fine efforts of Apollo Landscaping and Doug Neis from Alberta Environmental Protection. I would like to extend our thanks to the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and the County of Camrose for their assistance and cooperation in the completion of these projects.

Construction will begin this year on the outlet channel and structure. This will allow water exceeding the full supply level of Buffalo Lake to pass down Tail Creek to the Red Deer River. This essential component of the project can now proceed as required lands for the outlet and Tail Creek works have been obtained.

Our efforts in the near future will include meetings

and discussions with Rockeling Bay / Rider Lake property owners to advance the objective of providing increased water supply and wildlife enhancement in that area.

I must extend our sincere apologies to the people and Village of Mirror for allowing their domestic water supply to get so low - our best efforts will be focused on preventing this in the future.

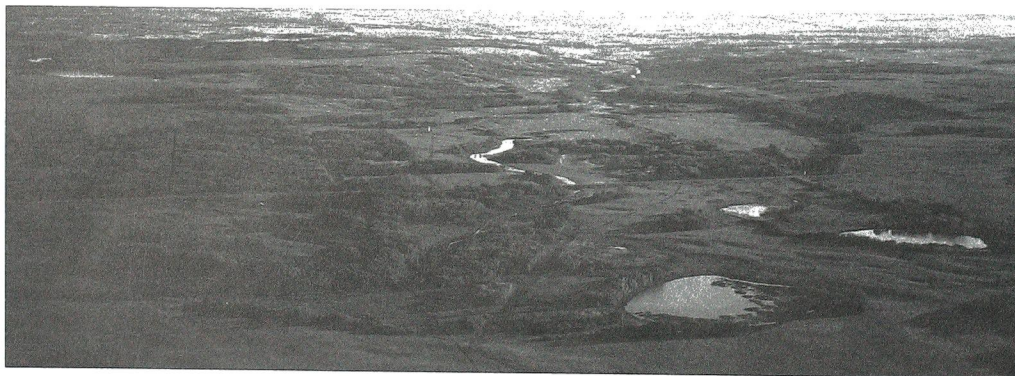
As you all know, many of us have long envisioned the benefits this project can bring to the region. It is most satisfying to see the economic activity planned and occurring around the lake which echoes the confidence people have for this project and the area in general.

Most elements of this project should be well advanced and fully operational by the onset of the new millennium, contributing to the well being of lake area residents and visitors.

Have a good summer and enjoy your lake.

Yours truly,

Angus Braseth, Chairman
BUFFALO LAKE MANAGEMENT TEAM



TAIL CREEK — LOOKING SOUTH

Mitigation Projects



NEW CAMPGROUND AT PELICAN POINT PARK

New Campground Loop Opens at Pelican Point Park

The May long weekend saw visitors occupying the new camping loop along the lakeshore at Pelican Point Park.

The project was undertaken by Alberta Environmental Protection as a mitigation measure to ensure that camping along the lake edge would remain viable with increased water levels due to the lake stabilization. The result is 27 modern, generously spaced camp stalls, sized to accommodate today's larger recreational vehicles. The County of Camrose which operates the facility, installed power to the new sites as an added convenience for Park visitors. Ted Matson, Manager of Parks and Recreation for the County of Camrose reports very positive public reaction to the new campground. Mr. Matson is optimistic that the new amenities will attract visitors to stay at Pelican Point Park for longer durations.

Renovations to the adjacent Pelican Point Marina area were completed in the fall of 1997. Improvements included a new boat launch, shoreline headwall and pier.



OFFICIALS REVIEW PROJECT SITES

Officials from Alberta Environmental Protection and members of the Buffalo Lake Management Team (BLMT) held discussions in the Summer Village of Rochon Sands on August 12, 1998. Pictured at left to right are: **Angus Braseth**, Chairman — BLMT; **Andy Nowicki**, Red Deer Area Manager — AEP; **Morley Barrett**, Assistant Deputy Minister — AEP; **Karl Grollmus** — BLMT; **Roy Willard** — BLMT; **Terry Wendland**, Rocky Mountain House Area Manager — AEP; **Jean MacDonald** — 'Ol MacDonalds' Campground; **Frank Cardinal**, Parkland Region Director — AEP and **Frances Sargent** — BLMT.

Rochon Sands & Whitesands

Most mitigation items listed in the Buffalo Lake Management Team report of January 1997 for Rochon Sands Provincial Park and the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and Whitesands have been completed.

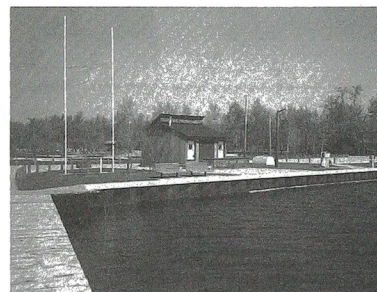
In the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, the marina has been rebuilt and the old rock pier in Rochon Bay was removed. Outstanding is the construction of the protection berm along the south shore area of Rochon Bay. Further consultation with the local landowners is being conducted to ensure that adequate protection is provided to the properties when the lake level rises due to a 1-in-100 year event.

The Summer Village of Rochon Sands has aggressively addressed sewage storage and disposal requirements. This will definitely benefit the lake in the future.

The Bird Island "protection" project did not commence to-date. Effectively stabilizing the island against erosion from ice breakup in the spring time is the major problem.

In the Summer Village of Whitesands, the boat launch has been raised and the immediate area regraded as necessary.

The completion of the identified mitigation items has served to enhance and improve the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and Whitesands, and Rochon Sands Provincial Park.



MARINA AT PELICAN POINT

Lake Levels

- June 9, 1998.....780.34 metres
- June 10, 1998.....pumping commenced
- July 15, 1998.....780.51 metres
- July 23, 1998.....780.48 metres

Mitigation Measures Update

The Buffalo Lake Management Team developed a list of appropriate mitigation measures after significant public and stakeholder consultation during preparation of the Parly Creek Buffalo Lake Water Management Project Mitigation Report.

Over ninety issues were identified during the mitigation investigation with approximately forty issues deemed to require funding to address predicted impacts in a reasonable manner. Some mitigation projects that have been completed, or are presently underway include:

Issue	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• potential groundwater, lake water and water well contamination from residential sewage systems• potential future conflicts - agricultural use/ recreational use and wildlife use• potential for increased water withdrawal requests• increased back flooding at Spotted Lake may alter vegetative regime• increased water levels could eliminate shore bird breeding habitat and rare plant habitats• potential inundation to low lying recreational facilities in Rochon Sands Provincial Park• mercury level concerns in fish• engineered Parly Creek channel eliminates natural creek habitat• protect low lying cottages at Pelican Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• testing program in place - results inconclusive at this stage• the Buffalo Lake Management Team contributed to and participated in the preparation of a Lake Management Plan by the Counties of Camrose, Lacombe and Stettler• the Buffalo Lake Management Team has prepared a Draft Water Management Policy for the Buffalo Lake Basin• study was commissioned and completed with generally inconclusive results• the management of water levels for wildlife and plant habitat in the Rockeling / Rider area was deemed to offset issues. Alberta Environmental Protection and the Buffalo Lake Management Team are working to complete agreements with local land owners• Alberta Environmental Protection has completed retrofits and renovations to affected areas• testing program has been implemented• the nearby 185 hectare Wildlife Wetland Conservation area has been acquired and set aside for wildlife management to offset the impact of channelization• sections of the lakeshore road are schedule to be raised in the fall of 1998

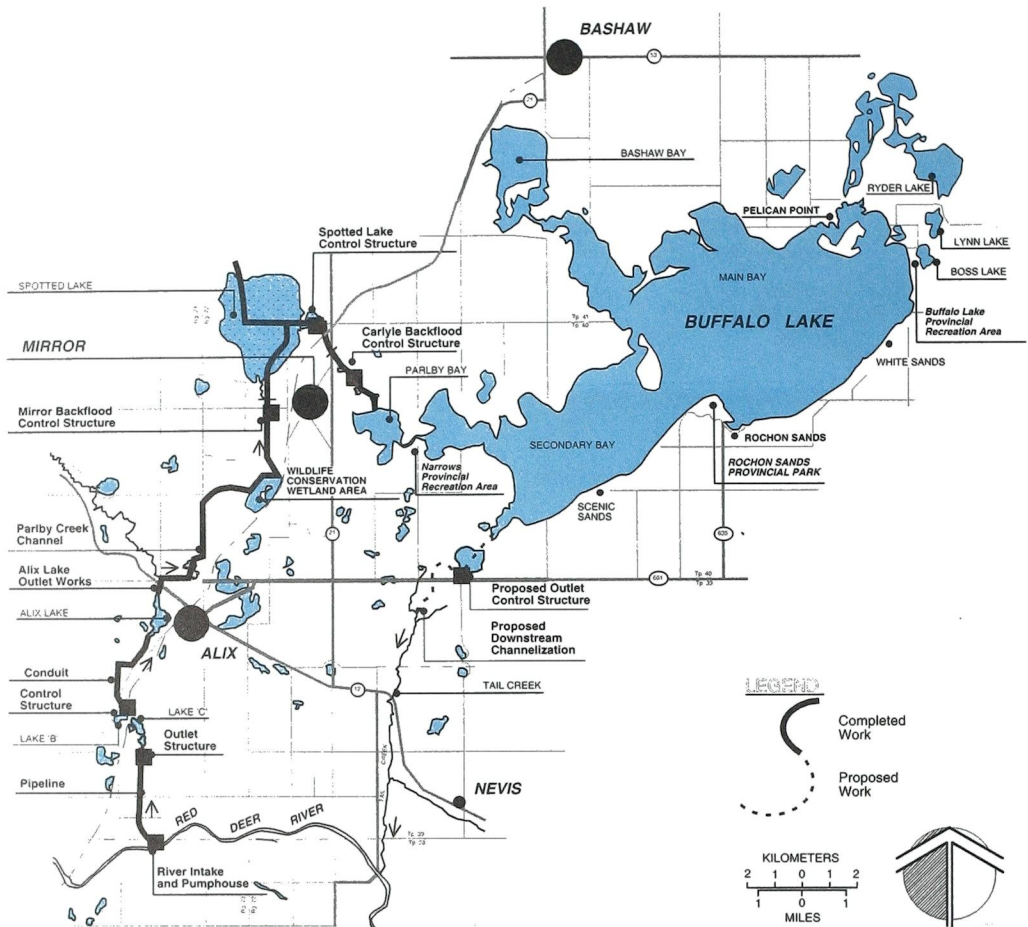
Future Management Team Direction

With construction nearing completion on the Parly Creek - Buffalo Lake Water Management Project, the Buffalo Lake Management Team will now focus on the remaining areas of its original mandate which includes completing mitigation activities and developing a long term operational plan for the system.

The Team will continue to play an important role in developing a plan for managing water levels in the system which reflects the diverse needs and expectations of agricultural operations, fish and wildlife concerns, recreational interests and municipal water supply requirements. The post construction operation of the Management Team was recommended by the Environmental Review Board in 1991 to ensure that unforeseen events and long term operational scenarios are effectively addressed. As construction on the project comes to a conclusion it is expected that present monthly BLMT meetings could be reduced to bi-annual sessions. Additional meeting requirements or other public sessions would be scheduled as needed.

The Buffalo Lake Management Team will continue to monitor the Lake level and water quality and will facilitate input from area stakeholders on pumping scenarios and other issues. The Team will continue working with the Spotted Lake Advisory Committee, the local authorities on Lake planning issues, and the Rockeling Bay / Rider Lake Group on enhanced water supply for agricultural and wildlife enhancement. The continuation of the Buffalo Lake Management Team will provide an ongoing focus for the collection of information, and a forum to address any future concerns.

Project Map



More Information

We encourage you to contact any members of the Buffalo Lake Management Team. They will be pleased to discuss your questions or concerns.

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Buffalo Lake Management Team

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